

S W A

How soon doth man decay!
When cloths are taken from a chest of sweets,
To swaddle infants, whose young breaths
Scarce knows the way;
Those cloths are little winding sheets,
Which do consign and fend them unto death.
They swaddled me up in my night-gown with long pieces of
linen, till they had wrapt me in about an hundred yards of
fwathe.
2. To beat; to cudgel. A low ludicrous word.
Great on the bench, great in the saddle,
That could as well bind o'er as swaddle.
SWADDLE. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Cloths bound round the
body.
I begged them to uncase me: no, no, say they; and upon
that carried me to one of their houses, and put me to bed in
all my swaddles.
SWADDLING-BAND. *n. f.* [from *swaddle*.] Cloth wrapped
SWADDLING-CLOATH. *n. f.* round a new-born child.
From thence a fairy thee unwitting rest,
There as thou slept'st in tender swaddlingband,
And her base elfin brood, there for thee left,
Such men do changelings call, so changed by faeries theft.
That great baby you see there is not yet out of his swaddling-
clouts.
The swaddlingbands were purple, wrought with gold.
To SWAG. *v. n.* [Irish, Saxon; *swaigie*, Islandick.] To
sink down by its weight; to lay heavy.
They are more apt, in swagging down, to pierce with their
points, than in the jacent posture, and crevice the wall.
Being a tall fish, and with his sides much compressed, he
hath a long fin upon his back, and another answering to it on
his belly; by which he is the better kept upright, or from
swagging on his sides.
To SWAGE. *v. a.* [from *affuage*.] To ease; to soften; to mi-
tigate.
Apt words have pow'r to swage
The tumours of a troubled mind,
And are as balm to fester'd wounds.
Nor wanting pow'r to mitigate and swage,
With solemn touches, troubled thoughts, and chafe
Anguish, and doubt, and fear from mortal minds.
I will love thee,
Though my distracted senses should forsake me,
I'd find some intervals, when my poor heart
Should swage itself, and be let loose to thine.
To SWAGGER. *v. n.* [from *swagger*, Dutch, to make a noise;
Irish, Saxon.] To bluster; to bully; to be turbulently and
impudently proud and insolent.
Drunk? squabble? swagger? and discourse fullian with
one's own shadow? Oh thou invincible spirit of wine! *Shak.*
'Tis the gage of one that I should fight withal, if he be
alive; a rascal that swaggers'd with me last night.
Oft a terrible oath, with a swaggering accent sharply twang'd
off, gives manhood more approbation than proof itself. *Shak.*
The lesser size of mortals love to swagger for opinions, and
to boast infallibility of knowledge.
Many such asses in the world huff, look big, stare, dress,
cock, and swagger at the same noisy rate.
He chuck'd,
And scarcely deign'd to set a foot to ground,
But swaggers'd like a lord.
Confidence, how weakly soever founded, hath some effect
upon the ignorant, who think there is something more than
ordinary in a swaggering man that talks of nothing but de-
monstration.
To be great, is not to be starched, and formal, and superci-
lous; to swagger at our footmen, and browbeat our infe-
riors.
What a pleasure is it to be victorious in a cause? to swag-
ger at the bar? for a lawyer I was born, and a lawyer I will
be.
SWAGGERER. *n. f.* [from *swagger*.] A blusterer; a bully; a
turbulent noisy fellow.
He's no swaggerer, hostess; a tame cheater: you may stroke
him as gently as a puppy greyhound.
SWAGGY. *adj.* [from *swag*.] Dependent by its weight.
The beaver is called animal ventricosum, from his swaggy
and prominent belly.
SWAIN. *n. f.* [Irish, Saxon and Runick.]
1. A young man.
That good knight would not so nigh repair,
Himself estranging from their joyance vain,
Whose fellowship seem'd far unfit for warlike swain.
2. A country servant employed in husbandry.
It were a happy life
To be no better than a homely swain.
3. A pastoral youth.
Blest swains! whose nymphs in ev'ry grace excel;
Blest nymphs! whose swains those graces sing so well.

S W A

SWAINMOTE. *n. f.* [from *swainmote*, law Lat.] A court touching
matters of the forest, kept by the charter of the forest three
times in the year. This court of swainmote is as incident to a forest,
as the court of piepowder is to a fair. The swainmote is a
court of freeholders within the forest.
To SWALE. *v. a.* [Irish, Saxon, to kindle.] To waite or
To SWEAL. *v. a.* blaze away; to melt; as, the candle swales.
SWALLET. *n. f.* Among the tin-miners, water breaking in
upon the miners at their work.
SWALLOW. *n. f.* [Irish, Saxon.] A small bird of pas-
sage, or, as some say, a bird that lies hid and sleeps in the
winter.
The swallow follows not Summer more willingly than we
your lordship.
Daffodils,
That come before the swallow dars,
The swallows make use of celandine, and the linner of
euphrasia.
When swallows fleet foat high and sport in air,
He told us that the welkin would be clear.
The swallows sweep
The slimy pool, to build his hanging house
Intent.
To SWALLOW. *v. a.* [Irish, Saxon; *swelgen*, Dutch.]
1. To take down the throat.
I swallow down my spite.
If little faults
Shall not be wink'd at, how shall we stretch our eye,
Whose capital crimes chew'd swallows'd, and digested,
Appear before us?
Men are, at a venture, of the religion of the country; and
must therefore swallow down opinions, as silly people do em-
piricks pills, and have nothing to do but believe that they will
do the cure.
2. To receive without examination.
Consider and judge of it as a matter of reason, and not
swallow it without examination as a matter of faith.
3. To engross; to appropriate.
Far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy.
Homer excels all the inventors of other arts in this, that he
has swallow'd up the honour of those who succeeded him.
4. To absorb; to take in; to sink in any abyss; to engulf.
Though you untie the winds, and let them fight
Against the churches, though the yelty waves
Confound and swallow navigation up.
I may be pluck'd into the swallowing womb
Of this deep pit, poor Bassianus' grave.
Death is swallow'd up in victory.
If the earth open her mouth and swallow them up, ye shall
understand that these men have provoked the Lord.
In bogs swallow'd up and lost.
He hid many things from us, not that they would swallow
up our understanding, but divert our attention from what is
more important.
Nature would abhor
To be forced back again upon herself,
And like a whirlpool swallow her own streams.
Should not the sad occasion swallow up
My other cares, and draw them all into it?
Cities overturn'd,
And late at night in swallowing earthquake sunk.
5. To devour; to destroy.
The necessary provision for life swallows the greatest part
of their time.
Corruption swallow'd what the liberal hand
Of bounty scatter'd.
6. To be lost in any thing; to be given up.
The priest and the prophet are swallow'd up of wine.
SWALLOW. *n. f.* [from the verb.] The throat; voracity.
Had this man of merit and mortification been called to ac-
count for his ungodly swallows, in gorging down the estates of
helpless widows and orphans, he would have told them that it
was all for charitable uses.
SWALLOWTAIL. *n. f.* A species of willow.
The shining willow they call swallowtail, because of the
pleasure of the leaf.
SWALLOWWORT. *n. f.* A plant.
SWAMP. The preterite of swim.
SWAMP. *n. f.* [Irish, Saxon, Gothick; *swamp*, Saxon; *swamm*,
Islandick; *swamme*, Dutch; *swamp*, Danish; *swamp*, Swedish.]
A marsh; a bog; a fen.
SWAMPY. *adj.* [from *swamp*.] Boggy; fenny.
Swampy fens breathe destructive myriads.
SWAN. *n. f.* [Irish, Saxon; *swan*, Danish; *swaen*, Dutch.]
The swan is a large water-fowl, that has a long and very
straight neck, and is very white, excepting when it is young.
Its legs and feet are black, as is its bill, which is like that of
a goose, but something rounder, and a little hooked at the
lower end of it: the two sides below its eyes are black and
shining like ebony. Swans use wings like sails, which catch
the wind, so that they are driven along in the water.

S W A

feed upon herbs and some sort of grain like a goose, and some
are said to have lived three hundred years. There is a species
of swans with the feathers of their heads, towards the breast,
marked at the ends with a gold colour inclining to red. The
swan is reckoned by Moses among the unclean creatures; but
it was consecrated to Apollo the god of music, because it was
said to sing melodiously when it was near expiring; a tradition
generally received, but fabulous.
With untainted eye
Compare her face with some that I shall show,
And I will make thee think thy swan a crow.
Let music sound, while he doth make his choice;
Then if he lose, he makes a swan like end.
I have seen a swan,
With bootless labour, swim against the tide,
And spend her strength with over-matching waves.
The birds easy to be drawn are plainpates, or water-fowl,
as the mallard, goose, and swan.
The fearful matrons raise a screaming cry,
Old feeble men with fainter groans reply;
A jarring sound refutes, and mingles in the sky,
Like that of swans returning to the floods.
The idea, which an Englishman signifies by the name swan,
is a white colour, long neck, black beak, black legs, and whole
feet, and all these of a certain size, with a power of swim-
ming in the water, and making a certain kind of noise.
SWANSKIN. *n. f.* [Irish, Saxon; *swan*, Dutch.] A kind of soft flannel,
imitating for warmth the down of a swan.
SWAP. *adv.* [Irish, Saxon, to do at a snatch, Islandick.] Hastily;
with hasty violence: as, he did it swap. A low word.
To SWAP. *v. a.* To exchange. See *SWOP*.
SWARD. *n. f.* [Irish, Swedish.]
1. The skin of bacon.
2. The surface of the ground: whence *green sword*, or *green*
sward.
Water, kept too long, loosens and softens the sward, makes
it subject to rushes and coarse grass.
The noon of night was past, when the foe
Came dreading o'er the level sward, that lies
Between the wood and the swift streaming Ouse.
To plant a vineyard in July, when the earth is very dry
and combustible, plow up the sward, and burn it.
SWARM. The preterite of *swarm*.
SWARM. *n. f.* [Irish, Saxon; *swarm*, Dutch.]
1. A great body or number of bees or other small animals, par-
ticularly those bees that migrate from the hive.
A swarm of bees that cut the liquid sky,
Upon the topmost branch in clouds alight.
2. A multitude; a crowd.
From this swarm of fair advantages,
You grip'd the general sway into your hand,
Forgot your oath to us at Doncaster.
If we could number up those prodigious swarms that had
settled themselves in every part of it, they would amount to
more than can be found.
To SWARM. *v. n.* [Irish, Saxon; *swarmen*, Dutch.]
1. To rise as bees in a body, and quit the hive.
All hands employ'd,
Like labouring bees on a long Summer's day;
Some found the trumpet for the rest to swarm.
Swarm'd on a rotten tick the bees I spy'd.
When bees hang in swarming time, they will presently rise,
if the weather hold.
2. To appear in multitudes; to crowd; to throng.
The mercilefs Macdonel,
The multiplying villanies of nature
Do swarm upon.
Our superfluous lacqueys, and our peasants,
Who in unnecessary action swarm
About our squares of battle.
What a multitude of thoughts at once
Awaken'd in me swarm, while I consider
What from within I feel myself, and hear
What from without comes often to my ears.
Then mounts the throne, high plac'd before the shrine;
In crowds around the swarming people join.
3. To be crowded; to be over-run; to be thronged.
These garriſons you have now planted throughout all Ire-
land, and every place swarms with soldiers.
Her lower region swarms with all sort of fowl, her rivers
with fish, and her seas with whole shoals.
Those days swarm'd with fables, and from such grounds
took hints for fictions, poisoning the world ever after.
4. To breed multitudes.
Not so thick swarm'd once the foil
Bedropp'd with blood of Gorgon.
SWART. *adj.* [Irish, Gothick; *swarte*, Saxon; *swart*,
Dutch.]
1. Black; darkly brown; tawney.
A nation strange, with visage swart,
And courage fierce, that all men did affray,
Through the world then swarmed in every part.

S W A

A man
Of swarth complexion, and of crabbed hute,
That him full of melancholy did shew.
Whereas I was black and swart before;
With those clear rays which the infus'd on me,
That beauty am I blest with; which you see.
No goblin, or swart fairy of the mine,
Hath hurtful power o'er true virginity.
2. In Milton it seems to signify black; gloomy; malignant.
Ye valleys low,
On whose fresh lap the swart star sparsely looks.
To SWART. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To blacken; to
dusk.
The heat of the sun may swart a living part, or even black
a dead or dissolving flesh.
SWARTHILY. *adv.* [from *swarth*.] Blackly; dusklily; taw-
nily.
SWARTHINESS. *n. f.* [from *swarth*.] Darkness of complexion;
tawnyness.
SWARTHY. *adj.* [See *SWART*.] Dark of complexion; black;
dusky; tawney.
Set me where, on some pathless plain,
The swarth Africans complain.
Though in the torrid climates the common colour is black
or swarthy, yet the natural colour of the temperate climates is
more transparent and beautiful.
Here swarthy Charles appears, and there
His brother with dejected air.
Did they know Cato, our remotest kings
Would pour embattled multitudes about him;
Their swarthy hosts would darken all our plains,
Doubling the native horror of the wars,
And making death more grim.
SWASH. *n. f.* [A cant word.] A figure, whose circumference
is not round, but oval; and whose moldings lie not at right
angles, but oblique to the axis of the work.
To SWASH. *v. n.* To make a great clatter or noise: whence
swashbuckler.
We'll have a swashing and a martial outside,
As many other mannish cowards have,
That do outface it with their semblances.
Draw, if you be men: Gregory, remember thy swashing
blow.
SWASHER. *n. f.* [from *swash*.] One who makes a show of
valour or force of arms.
I have observed these three swashers; three such anticks do
not amount to a man.
SWATCH. *n. f.* A swatch. Not in use.
One spreadeth those bands so in order to lie,
As barlie in swatches may fill it thereby.
SWATH. *n. f.* [Irish, Dutch.]
1. A line of grass cut down by the mower.
With tossing and raking, and setting on cox,
Grass, lately in swaths, is meat for an ox.
The strawy Greeks, ripe for his edge,
Fall down before him, like the mower's swath.
As soon as your grass is mown, if it lie thick in the swath,
neither air nor sun can pass freely through it.
2. A continued quantity.
An affection'd ass, that cons state without book, and utters
it by great swaths.
3. [Irish, Saxon.] A band; a fillet.
An Indian comb, a stick whereof is cut into three sharp and
round teeth four inches long: the other part is left for the
handle, adorned with fine straws laid along the sides, and
lapped round about it in several distinct swaths.
They swaddled me up in my night-gown with long pieces of
linen, which they folded about me, till they had wrapped me
in above an hundred yards of swathe.
To SWATHE. *v. a.* [Irish, Saxon.] To bind, as a child
with bands and rollers.
Thrice hath this Hotspur, Mars in swathing cloaths,
This infant warrior, and his enterprizes,
Discomfited great Douglas.
He had two sons; the eldest of them at three years old,
I th' swathing cloaths the other, from their nursery
Were stol'n.
Their children are never scathed, or bound about with any
thing, when they are first born; but are put naked into the bed
with their parents to lie.
Swath'd in her lap the bold nurse bore him out,
With olive branches cover'd round about.
Master's feet are scath'd no longer,
If in the night too oft he kicks,
Or shows his loco-motive tricks.
To SWAY. *v. a.* [Irish, German, to move.]
1. To wave in the hand; to move or wield with facility: as, to
sway the scepter.
Glancing fire out of the iron play'd,
As sparkles from the anvil rise,
When heavy hammers on the wedge are sway'd.
25 X